

THE MEASURE OF A CHURCH

(OUTLINE)

This study is adapted from an American Missionary Fellowship (AMF) course entitled “Foundations for Christian Leadership” by Dr. Gene Getz.

This outline, and the separate study notes, were used to present this teaching to our local church. [Click here](#) for the full study.

Note: This teaching was originally accompanied by a supporting video series which elaborated on the material summarized in this written presentation.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Generally, these are the issues and questions we will be examining and discussing as we view these three lessons. This is not an exhaustive study, but should motivate us to investigate these themes more thoroughly - individually, and as a local church. It is my hope and prayer that together, we will do so in a manner pleasing to God - and which is effective and rewarding for all of us.

Lesson 1 - The Measure of a Church

Why should we measure ourselves as a local church? How often should we do so?

Whose responsibility is this - and what action(s) should ensue?

How do we measure ourselves/How does God measure us (what does His Word say)?

How do we measure up?

Lesson 2 - Producing a Mature Church

What is our church about? Why does it exist? What is its purpose? What are its goals? More personally, why are we here - why do we trouble ourselves to show up?

Why should we concern ourselves with individual and corporate maturity in our church? What benefit will we reap by persevering in this area? Is it worth it?

What must we do to build up our church; to edify it; to see that it matures and is more available, able, involved and effective in true ministry which goes beyond the walls and the “event schedule” (not only in ministry to others, but to ourselves, as well)?

How can our church become effective in the lives of its members - and in its testimony to, and affect upon the surrounding community; attracting others to Christ; changing lives; building mature, God-honoring individuals and families?

Individually and as a church, are we obediently learning, fellowshiping and witnessing? Are we excited about these; is there an unmistakable, *appropriate* enthusiasm evidenced? Are the necessary elements of these foundational requirements in place?

Does our church properly balance bible teaching, relationships, and evangelism?

Lesson 3 - Building Up One Another

If our church is to grow and be built up, we must also do so *individually*. Are we building up one another? Do we understand and take seriously Eph 4:16 and similar passages? Are we being built up in our church - and are we, in turn, building up our church itself?

Do we encourage, pray for and serve one another in love? Are we truly devoted to one another - in Christ, and as Christ is devoted to us?

Do we greet, relate to and interact with one another in genuine sincerity? Do we truly love one another - in Christ, and as Christ loves us?

Do we honor one another in the Lord? Do we accept one another as Christ has accepted us? Do we avoid strife, gossip and pettiness?

Do we enjoy and celebrate the spiritual growth and “successes” of others? Do we get excited when we see God working in and through them? Do we take the time to notice?

Have we become comfortable with a lack of growth in ourselves, fellow church members, and/or our church itself? Do we resist required change?

Do we avoid or seek to circumvent the suffering and sacrifice God ordains for our growth (Jam 1:2-4)? Do we play God in others' lives (“amateur providences” - Oswald Chambers), hindering God's work by substituting an easy way out for His wisdom?

In love, do we appropriately exhort, admonish, rebuke and correct others as necessary? Do we also accept these from others as God desires? Do we, instead, abide sin or ignore warning signs for the sake of maintaining temporary human relationships and “peace” at the expense of the much more fulfilling, eternal, spiritual fellowship and freedom which God has sacrificially arranged for us to enjoy? When was the last time you served a brother or sister in the Lord in this way? When was the last time someone expressed their love for you in this manner?

Does our unity in Christ permeate all that we think, do and say, transcending our offenses and weaknesses? Do we maintain unity as the priority God's Word teaches?

Click [here](#) for the full study